

# JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS



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## JAPAN PAYS TRIBUTE TO MARTIN LUTHER KING

A crowd of 300 persons, including young and old, overflowed the conference room of the Christian Center, Ginza, Tokyo, on the night of April 10, when a memorial service for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was held by Japanese churches. Most of the congregation had to stand during the service, which was conducted by the Rev. In Ha Lee, Interim General Secretary of the NCCJ.

A wave of emotion spread over the crowd when Dr. Sam H. Franklin said, "As a white American from the South, I deeply appreciate this gathering of Japanese to mourn the untimely death of the great American Christian leader. But, at the same time, I am terribly ashamed." The tall, gray-haired professor, who has served in Japan for more than 30 years, leaned forward slightly as he continued, "Dr. King was thirty-nine--as young as my son; yet our nation killed him."

Among other speakers, Dr. Yasuo Furuya of International Christian University lauded Dr. King's "A Letter from a Birmingham Jail" as one of the classics of the Twentieth Century. He emphasized that it is King who has shown the new path for Christianity. He said, "Dr. King showed us the hope for the church in this troubled age. His dream should not become a 'shattered dream' because all of us are reassured by him that God is with us in spite of the misery and injustice we may endure."

Rev. Shuichi Matsumura of the Baptist Convention expressed his denomination's disappointment at being unable to invite King to the coming Baptist World Convention in Tokyo in 1970. Prayers were offered by representatives of five denominations, and the service closed with the singing in Japanese of the freedom song, "We Shall Overcome," which appears in a newly published Kyodan songbook.

Prior to the memorial service, 100 persons participated in an hour-long silent march from Shimizudani Park to the Christian Center.

At St. Alban's Anglican-Episcopal Church, foreigners from many lands joined Americans in a Service of Memorial and Witness at noon on Monday, April 8. U. S. Ambassador to Japan U. Alexis Johnson read the statement of President Johnson with regard to King's death.

The Rev. Kenneth Heim, representative of the American Episcopal Church to the Japan Episcopal Church, preached the memorial sermon, quoting from "A Letter from a Birmingham Jail." At the close of the service, Guitarist John Walker urged the congregation to "keep on singing" the freedom song, "We Shall Overcome," which has become known around the world.

#### REV. IN HA LEE IS APPOINTED INTERIM GENERAL SECRETARY

Rev. In Ha Lee, pastor of the Kawasaki Church and general secretary of the Korean Christian Church in Japan, was appointed Interim General Secretary of the NCCJ by the executive committee, at its April 9 meeting at the Japan YWCA in Tokyo. Mr. Lee who has been serving as recording secretary of the NCCJ since the 1967 General Assembly, is a graduate of Tokyo Union Theological Seminary and Knox College, Toronto, Canada.

#### JAPANESE TO JOIN INDIA IN RICE-PLANTING SEASON

A 23-year old Japanese university student has wrested a two-year leave of absence from his agricultural college to help the Indian people improve their-rice-growing techniques.

Masao Arisawa, a graduate of Rakuno Agricultural High School, Hokkaido, and a student at Tokyo Agricultural College, leaves in late April for Hastinapur in the State of Uttar Pradesh, where he will take part in the rice planting, which begins with the arrival of the rainy season in late June. He will be joined by Fuzuho Makino, Kyodan missionary presently assigned to Allahabad Agricultural Institute, and Michio Naito, of Tsurukawa Rural Training Institute. Mr. Naito is a practical farmer who is also a university graduate. He has taught agriculture in East Pakistan under the Colombo Plan and has visited Common Market countries of Europe.

"If Japanese agricultural methods can be successfully applied in India and, even without large equipment, the production of rice increased two or three times, the Indian people will be able to break away from their ancient agricultural system," predicts Rev. Kentaro Buma, director, NCC Department of Interchurch Aid and Service, which is responsible for the rice-planting mission.

#### RESEARCH CENTER REPORTS ON FOLK RELIGIONS

Just published in the new issue of Deai (No. 1., Vol. 2, in Japanese) is the report of the five-day seminar on Christianity and Folk Religions held at the NCC Center for the Study of Japanese Religions, Kyoto, in the fall of 1967.

Printed in full is the lecture given by Tokyo University Professor Ichiro Hori on Japanese Folk Religions, followed by summaries of the discussion on "Christianity and Folk Religions." Six specific problems covered are: 1) The Problem of Indigenization; 2) Indigenization and the Changing Society; 3) Christianity and Social Frustration; 4) Encounters between Religions; 5) Uniqueness and Universality; 6) Various Practical Problems.

The Seminar on the Religions of Japan is conducted every fall to encourage a better understanding on the part of Christian pastors with regard to non-Christian religions and religious practices.

Included also in the April, 1968, issue of Deai is the first article in a series on "The Japanese and Kami," with special reference to "god" as found in the teachings of Konkokyo, one of the newer Shinto sects.

## JAPANESE HOUSEWIVES HELP FIGHT MOSQUITOES IN VIETNAM

Christian housewives in Tokyo and Osaka have been busily pulling out and checking their old kaya (mosquito tents) stored away in drawers and closets. Summer is still two months away, and, as a matter of fact, mosquito tents are not used any more in most cities, thanks to advances in public health.

The tents, however, are being collected to be sent to Vietnam to help prevent malaria among the refugees. The project was undertaken at the request of Rev. Yoshitaka Funato of Asian Christian Service in Saigon and handled by the Department of Interchurch Aid and Service of the NCCJ.

Ten churches and denominational offices in Tokyo and Osaka have been designated as depots where neighborhood people can bring their "tents." Shipment will begin in May. The Interchurch Aid and Service office, 4th floor No. 2 4-chome Sinza, Chuo-ku, Tokyo, is also accepting donations of mosquito nets and money for this campaign.

## NEW YEARBOOK IS JOINT ROMAN CATHOLIC-PROTESTANT EFFORT

The Japan Christian Yearbook, for 63 years a Protestant effort, becomes a joint Roman Catholic-Protestant publication with the appearance of the 1968 issue, scheduled to be off the presses in June.

Two major themes in this year's issue are "The Role of Christianity in Japan's Process of Modernization During the 100-year Period Since the Meiji Restoration," and "The Place of Christianity in Present and Future Japanese Thought and Culture." In addition there will be a diary of Christian events in 1968; directories of Protestant-related organizations, institutions and missionaries; and directories of Catholic organizations, institutions and national and local offices.

The well-known Japanese Christian artist, Sadao Watanabe, has produced a special jacket for this Meiji 100th Anniversary Edition of The Yearbook, which has become a standard English reference volume for personal, church, library and research use. The price is ¥1,000 plus ¥70 postage in Japan; \$5.00 or £1/15 including postage for overseas orders. The order form enclosed may be used.

## SALVATION ARMY'S INTERNATIONAL LEADER VISITS JAPAN

General Frederick Coutts of the International Headquarters in London, England, is visiting Japan, and special evangelistic meetings and rallies are being held throughout Japan.

The Japan Salvation Army has 100 Corps with 2500 members and 500 officers. This is the first visit of General Coutts to Japan, where the name of Salvation Army leader Gumpel Yamamuro is widely honored in the history of Christianity in Japan.

## NEW MILESTONE IN COOPERATION

The dedication ceremony of the newly erected, 4 story ferro-concrete Christian Distribution Center at 1-3 Shin Ogawa Cho, Shinjuku ku, Tokyo, was held on April 1. Not primarily to provide warehouse facilities, the building also houses offices of the Christian Press and the Christian Literature Commission of NCCJ, while immediately adjoining are the new offices of the Protestant Publishing Co.

Dr. Henry D; Bovenkirk of the Lit-Lit department of the NCCCUSA brought greetings and congratulations and said that the building is definitely a milestone in the history of the cooperation between Christian publishers in Japan. He asked that all involved in this cooperative effort give their fullest efforts in the distribution of Christian literature in Japanese society.

Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the NCCJ Christian Literature Commission, Tomio Muto, spoke of the history of repeated struggles in making such a dream become a reality and also relayed gratitude to the Christian Literature Fund of the World Council of Churches and the Lit-Lit Department of the NCCCUSA.

Not only was the Protestant Church represented at this significant occasion but also the General Secretary of the Japan Catholic Council, Father Takayoshi Tamura, expressed words of congratulations and voiced the desire on the part of the Roman Catholic Church to cooperate in the matter of Christian Literature distribution.

Also a representative Mr. Tsutae Ikebe from Tokyo Shuppan Hanbai Co. Ltd. (Tokyo Books & Magazines Distributing Co.) brought his congratulations and hopes for the future success of this newly established venture.

#### NAGOYA GAKUIN CHANCELLOR DIES SUDDENLY

Dr. Haruo Yamazaki, 57, chancellor of Nagoya Gakuin, died suddenly in his home in Nagoya on April 7. Before becoming head of Nagoya Gakuin High School and University in 1966, Dr. Yamazaki had served for more than twelve years as Chaplain at Kwansei Gakuin. He had also taught at Kwassui Girls' School in Nagasaki and prior to that had served several pastorates.

Dr. Yamazaki was graduated from Kwansei Gakuin School of Theology in 1934.

In 1941 he received the M.A. degree from Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas, and in 1967 was awarded the LL.D. degree by Alaska Methodist University, Anchorage, with which Nagoya Gakuin has sister school relationships.

In March, the Chancellor presided at the first graduation of Nagoya Gakuin University, established in 1964. The boys' high school known as Nagoya Gakuin was started in 1887.

Dr. Yamazaki is survived by his wife, a son who is with the YMCA in Kobe, and a married daughter living in New Zealand. Dr. Yamazaki was known and appreciated for his deep concern over the role of Christian schools, his warm personality, and his love of flowers and gardening.

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